APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/916,330	07/30/2001	Mark A. Kirkpatrick	BS01-084	9174

45695 7590 04/06/2007	EXAMINER
WITHERS & KEYS FOR BELL SOUTH P. O. BOX 71355 MARIETTA, GA 30007-1355	NAWAZ, ASAD M

	ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
	2155	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	04/06/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

PTOL-90A (Rev. 10/06)

		Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary		09/916,330	KIRKPATRICK ET AL.
		Examiner	Art Unit	
		Asad M. Nawaz	2155	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>08 January 2007</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-41</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-41</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/26/07</u>.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This action is responsive to the RCE filed on 1/8/07. Claims 1, 10, 19, 31, 36,

37, 40, and 41 have been amended. No claims have been added or canceled. Claims

1-41 are pending.

Information Disclosure Statement

2.   The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 1/26/07 was filed after

the mailing date of the RCE on 1/8/07. The submission is in compliance with the

provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being

considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4.   Claims 1-2, 4, 6, 8, 10-11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 22, 24-26, 28, 31-32, 34, 36-38, and

40-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morris (USPN

5813017) further in view of Moore et al (USPN 6915454).

        As to claim 1, Morris teaches a client-server computer system comprising:

a client application server that utilizes data in a particular form and generates a

validation request for validation of the data and wherein the request includes the data in

an initial form, an application server accessible by a plurality of client application servers

via a plurality of application software protocols, wherein said application server provides

a data validation service on the data received from the client application server in

response to receiving the validation request from the client application server (abstract;

col 6, lines 50-67) wherein the data validation service compares the data in the initial

form to a reference for the particular form utilized by the client application to determine

whether the initial form matches the particular form and returns to the same client

application server that generated the validation request an indication of valid or invalid

based on whether the initial form matches the particular form (abstract; col 6, lines 35-

39; col 6, lines 50-67; delta difference file) and a storage mass coupled to said

application server for storing a system of dynamically maintainable validation functions

for performing said validation service (col 8, lines 43-59; backup servers and etc.).

However, Morris does not explicitly indicate wherein the data is determined to be

in valid format when a date item specified in the data has a non-empty table field, a date

specified in the data is in a valid date format, and when the date falls within a set of

range of dates.

Moore et al teaches the above-mentioned limitation by performing date and

range comparisions as well as making sure all required fields are non-empty (see

abstract; col 11, lines 36-48). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the

art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teachings of Moore et al into those of

Morris to allow the system to be validated. Allowing the system to be validated, all data

can be assured to be up-to-date and synchronized.

As to claim 2, Morris teaches a client-server computer system according to claim wherein said storage mass comprises a database (Fig 1, numerals 12 and 15; Fig 2, numerals 25-29)

As to claim 4 Morris and Moore et al teach a client-server computer system according to claim 2, wherein said database contains a table-based system of rules organized into at least three hierarchically-organized views.(Fig 2, numerals 25-29; col 9, lines 1-12)

As to claim 6, Morris and Moore et al teach a client-server computer system according to claim 2, wherein said database stores validation functions stored ms hierarchically-organized views that are dynamically updatable by an external administrator (Fig 2, numerals 25-29; col 9, lines 1-12).

As to claim 8, Morris and Moore et al teach a client-server computer system according to claim 4, wherein said application server and said database are centrally located to said plurality of client application servers and said validation functions are maintainable by a remote administrator. (col 8, line 60 to col 9, line 12)

Claims 10-11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 22, 24-26, 28, 31-32, 34, 36-38, and 40-41 are essentially the method, application server, system and method for the above-mentioned claims and are thus rejected under similar rationale.

5.   Claims 3, 5, 7, 9, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20-21, 23, 27, 29-30, 33, 35, and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morris (USPN 5813017) further in view of Official Notice.

As to claims 3, 5, 7, and 9, Morris teaches the method of claim 1 with validation functions represented by a storage schema maintainable by a remote administrator, a database containing a table-based system of rules organized into at least three hierarchically-organized views, wherein the storage schema is located centrally. However, Morris does not explicitly indicate that the schema is represented via LDAP.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use LDAP in a system as taught by Morris because LDAP is a standardized networking protocol designed for querying and modifying directory services. The IETF designed and specified LDAP as a better way to make use of directories having found DAP to be too complex for simple Internet clients to use.

Claims 12, 14, 16, 18, 20-21, 23, 27, 29-30, 33, 35, and 39 contain similar limitations as the above-mentioned claims and are thus rejected under similar rationale.
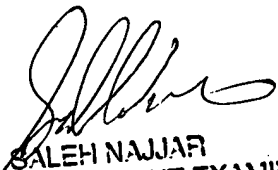
Conclusion

6.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Asad M. Nawaz whose telephone number is (571) 272-3988. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on (571) 272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AMN

SALEH NAJJAR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER